

The BRICS Countries: Trends of Demographic and Economic Development

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Abstract: *This paper examines how important the BRICS countries are to the world economy as emerging market nations. Together, these countries account for 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and more than 16% of global commerce; BRICS is a significant organisation that brings together the most prominent emerging economies worldwide. Over the years, the BRICS nations have been the primary drivers of global economic development. It focussed on the two decadal (2000–2020) growth and development patterns in different demographic and economic facets. It is important to note that the BRICS group fared far better economically than industrialised nations and was not significantly impacted by the global crisis. Increased input of forces and vast ranges of population and resources were the key drivers of the group's economic growth. China benefits from having inexpensive labour and resources. India, too relies on a cheap labour force. The study analysed at a variety of factors, including demographics—fertility rate, population growth, total population, life expectancy, and workforce. Economic development—GDP, per capita income, export and import, drugs, health, information technology (IT) service expenditures, automobiles, electronics spending, and public opinion on artificial intelligence (AI). The BRICS nations might soon rival the G7 in terms of leadership as they explore different resources for economic development.*

Keywords: BRICS, population, economic development, automobile, artificial intelligence.

1. Introduction

The BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) have been all the rage since the beginning of the millennium. The catchy term and the impressive economic performance elevated them to the status of emerging economies. Jim O'Neill (2001). On the sidelines of the G8 Outreach Conference in St. Petersburg, Russia, in July 2006, the heads of the BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India, and China) nations convened for the first time. Then, after a short while, in September 2006, the group convened in New York City for the 1st BRIC Foreign Ministers' Meeting, which was held in conjunction with the UN Assembly's General Debate. Finally, the first BRIC summit was held on June 16, 2009, in Yekaterinburg, Russia, following a series of high - level conferences.

BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) is the new name for the BRIC group, which was changed when South Africa was admitted as a full member during the BRIC Foreign Ministers Conference in New York in September 2010. As a result, on April 14, 2011, South Africa participated in the third BRICS Summit in Sanya, China. With 41% of the global population, 24% of the global GDP, and more than 16% of global commerce, BRICS is a significant organisation that brings together the most prominent emerging economies worldwide. Over the years, the BRICS nations have been the primary drivers of global economic development. According to World Bank statistics (2019), the BRICS countries have gathered over time to discuss crucial topics under the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people - to - people contacts.

Objectives

- 1) To study the economic development trends in BRICS countries regarding GDP growth, per capita income, exports, and imports.

- 2) To investigate demographic conditions among BRICS countries and
- 3) To examine the pharmaceutical, IT, automobile and electronic industries' growth

2. Method and Data

The study explored the secondary data sources and prepared figures to show growth and development trends over two decades, i. e., 2000, 2010, and 2020. The researcher pulled data from different sources to prepare all the figures.

3. Results and Discussion

This study explains and analyses various economic growth variables, development, demographic conditions, pharmaceuticals, health, expenditure on information technology (IT) services, automobiles, electronics, and opinions on artificial intelligence.

Demographic Trends in BRICS Countries

Fertility Rates

Although the BRICS nations are grouped in terms of economic growth, each one's demographic development varies. India and South Africa were the only BRICS nations with fertility rates higher than the replacement level in 2020. (2.1 births per woman). Given that China and Russia are at a later stage of the demographic transition than the other three, and Brazil is in a more recent stage, fertility rates since 2000 reveal that fertility in these two countries has either fluctuated or stayed relatively stable. While South Africa's fertility rate is increasing far slower than Brazil's, fertility rates in India are trending in the same direction. Economic growth and demographic change are closely intertwined. For instance, when fertility rates decline, female labour force participation rises, and the average age rises, boosting productivity and making the domestic market more

profitable. Figure 1 shows a general two - decadal fertility rate of the BRICS countries.

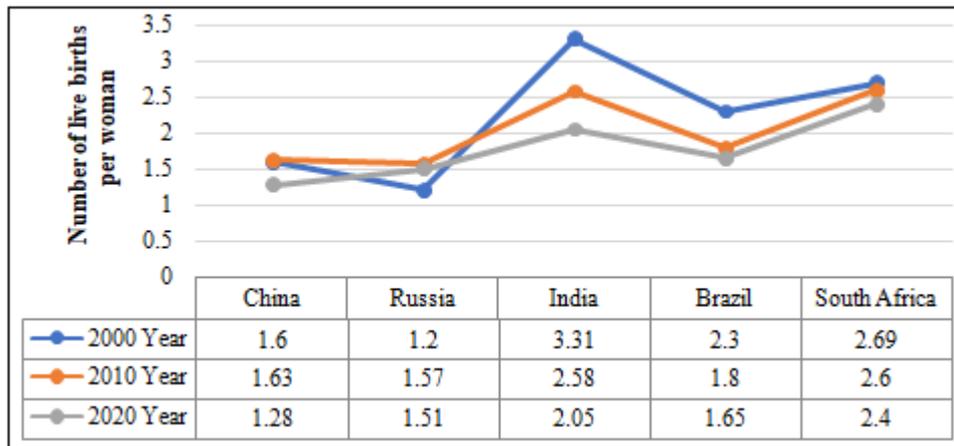


Figure 1: Fertility rate of the BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.worldbank.org, World Development Indicators, October 2022

Population Growth Rate

Russia has regularly suffered the lowest population growth rate among the BRICS nations since 2000, and it even saw a population fall during most of the 2000s and again in the late 2010s. Population growth has steadily declined for Brazil,

China, and India as their demographic developments have advanced. Before starting to decline as birth rates more closely matched mortality rates, South Africa had the fastest population growth rate since 2010, when its population was recovering from the first effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

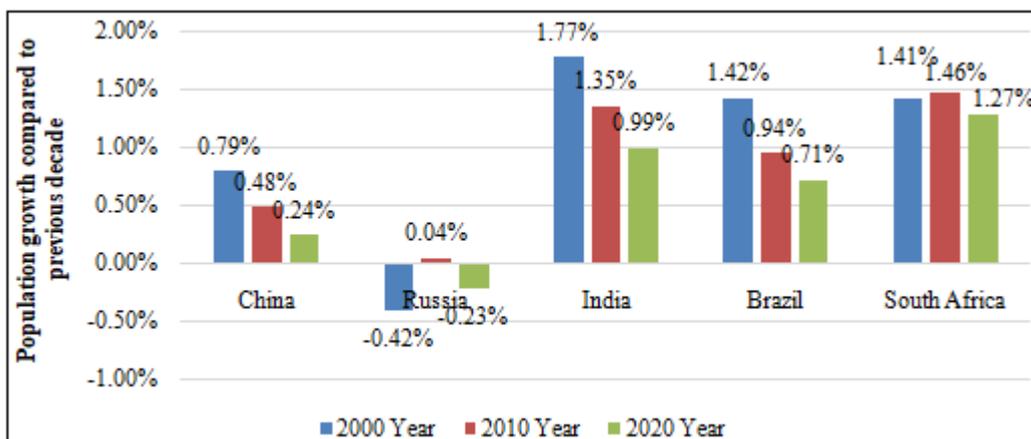


Figure 2: Population growth rate of the BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.worldbank.org, World Development Indicators, October 2022

Total Population

The predicted aggregate population of the BRICS nations in 2020 will be 3.22 billion, or more than 40% of the world's population. Most of these individuals reside in China or

India, each with a population of almost 1.4 billion, while the combined populations of the remaining three nations are just under 420 million.

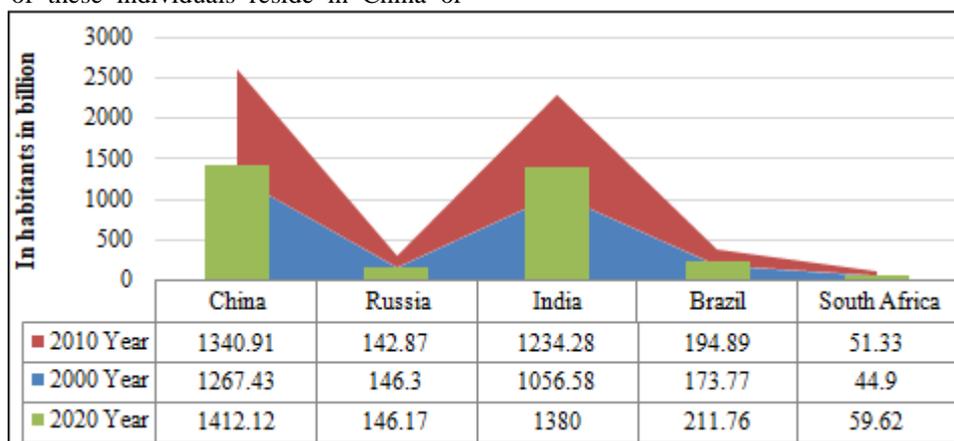


Figure 3: Total population of BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.imf.org, World Economic Outlook, October 2022

Expected lifespan

From birth, the average life expectancy increased globally, from 67.6 years in 2000 to 72.75 years in 2020. Brazil and China, two of the BRICS nations, have had life expectancies during the past several years that are higher than the average for the world, compared to persistently lower ones in South Africa, India, and Russia up until 2017. For example, despite a decline of almost three years in South Africa between 2000 and 2005 due to the prevalence of HIV/AIDS and a slight decline of nearly half a year in Russia from 2000 to 2003 due to the prevalence of unhealthy lifestyles and alcohol/substance abuse, life expectancy from birth has increased in all five BRICS countries over the past two decades.

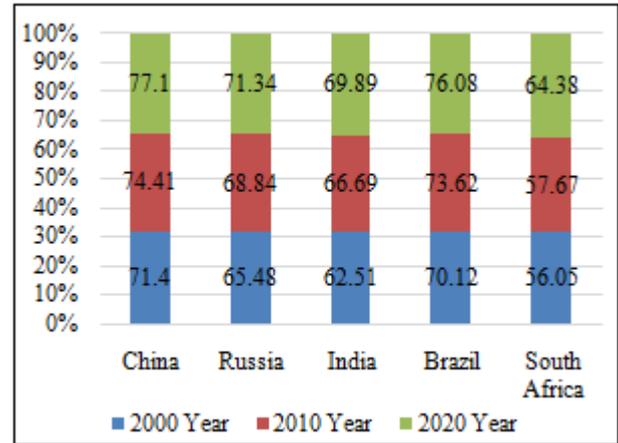


Figure 4: Life expectancy at birth in years

Source: Based on data from www.worldbank.org, World Development Indicators, October 2022

The workforce of BRICS countries

The workforce of BRICS countries in the year 2020, India has the highest workforce among five countries, followed by China at 46 per cent, South Africa at 38 per cent, Brazil at 30 per cent and Russia at 22 per cent. Further estimates show that in 2030 India will have the highest workforce at 47%, followed by South Africa at 38%, China at 35%, Brazil at 24% and Russia at 18%.

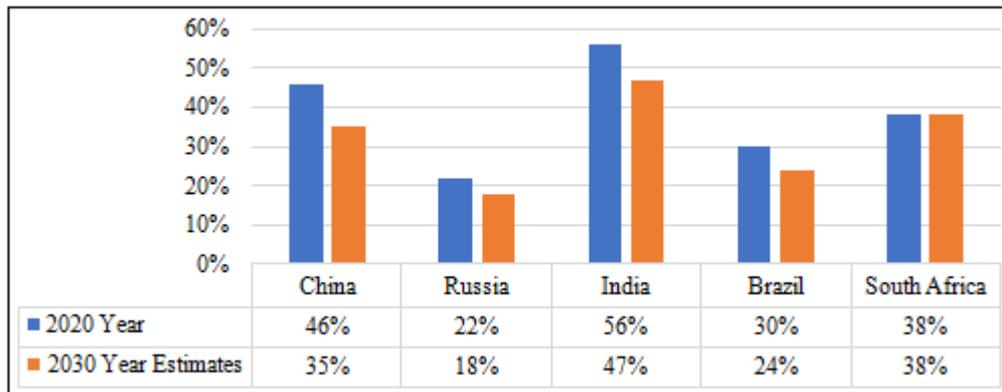


Figure 5: Share of workforce in the BRICS economies

Source: Based on pulled data from various sources of BRICS countries.

Growth of the BRICS Economies

Since the BRIC acronym was used 20 years ago, China's economy has become the second - largest in the world, trailing only the United States (in terms of GDP). After China abandoned many isolationist policies, opened up to foreign commerce, and instituted free - market reforms in the late 1970s, the country's economy started to thrive. China became regarded as the "world's factory" because of its rapid industrialisation and urbanisation of the most significant workforce in the world; the infusion of cash and international investment witnessed a dramatic rise in living standards and opened up new domestic markets. Most predictions indicate that China will overtake the United States as the world's largest economy by 2030 as its industrial sectors shift to producing more technologically sophisticated items. Economic development has often followed demographic development in Brazil, India, and South Africa, which has been slower and more recent. India's economy surpassed China's as the one with the highest growth rate in the 2010s, and according to some

predictions, it will surpass the United States by the middle of the century. India, along with China, has the largest domestic market in the world. Although its position in the international arena will differ, India's overall economic development is anticipated to resemble China's in many aspects. Brazil saw substantial growth in the early 2010s until political and economic difficulties led to a recession, from which recovery has been difficult. However, Russia's economic progress has significantly differed from the other four BRICS countries. The Soviet Union, which preceded Russia in the 20th century, had the second - largest economy in the world. Nevertheless, the collapse of the Soviet Union caused an economic downturn that lasted into the 1990s until recovering in the 2000s, when the economy was seen as "developing."

BRICS Countries' GDP Per Capita nations between 2000 and 2020

At 10148 and 10525 dollars per person in 2020, Russia and China were the BRICS nations with the highest estimated

GDP per capita. On the other hand, India's GDP per capita is a little over 1935 U. S. dollars, whereas Brazil's and South Africa's are estimated to be 6840 and 5624, respectively. This stands in stark contrast to statistics for global GDP, which show that China's economy is by far the largest, with India's coming in at a close second. The size of the population is the cause of this discrepancy. For instance,

China and Russia have comparable GDP per capita since China's population and GDP are nearly ten times greater than Russia's. In addition, despite being the smallest of the BRICS economies, South Africa has a greater GDP per capita than India despite having a population that is 23 times bigger than India's and a GDP that is just seven times larger. Figure.6. shows the GDP per capita of the BRICS countries.

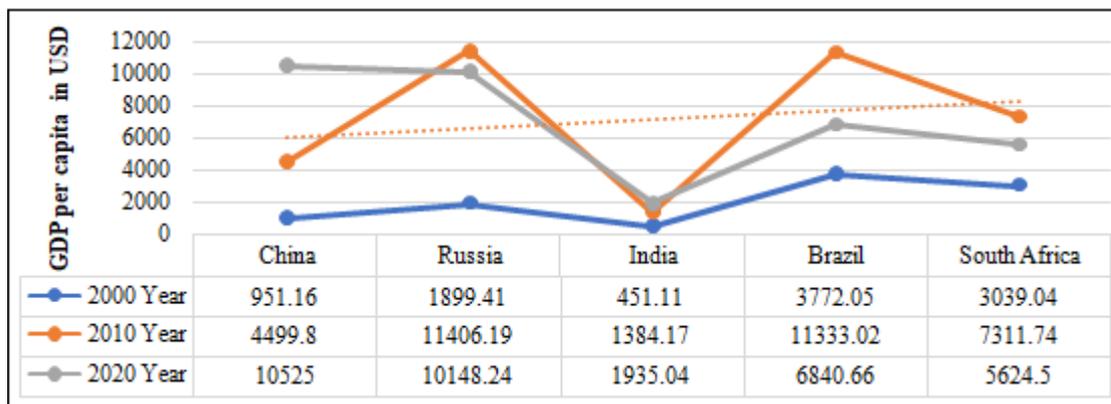


Figure 6: GDP per capita income of the BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.imf.org, World Economic Outlook, October 2022

GDP growth rates for the BRICS nations between 2000 and 2020

China had the most significant GDP growth of any of the BRICS nations for most of the previous two decades. However, India surpassed it in the middle of the 2010s, and India is anticipated to have the fastest growth in the 2020s. China was the only economy that continued to develop during both crises. However, India's economy also increased

during the Great Recession. All five nations had their GDP growth decline during the global financial crisis in 2008 and again during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020. Brazil went through a recession in 2014 due to political and economic unrest. Russia also had one because oil prices were decreasing, and economic sanctions were implemented after it took over Crimea.

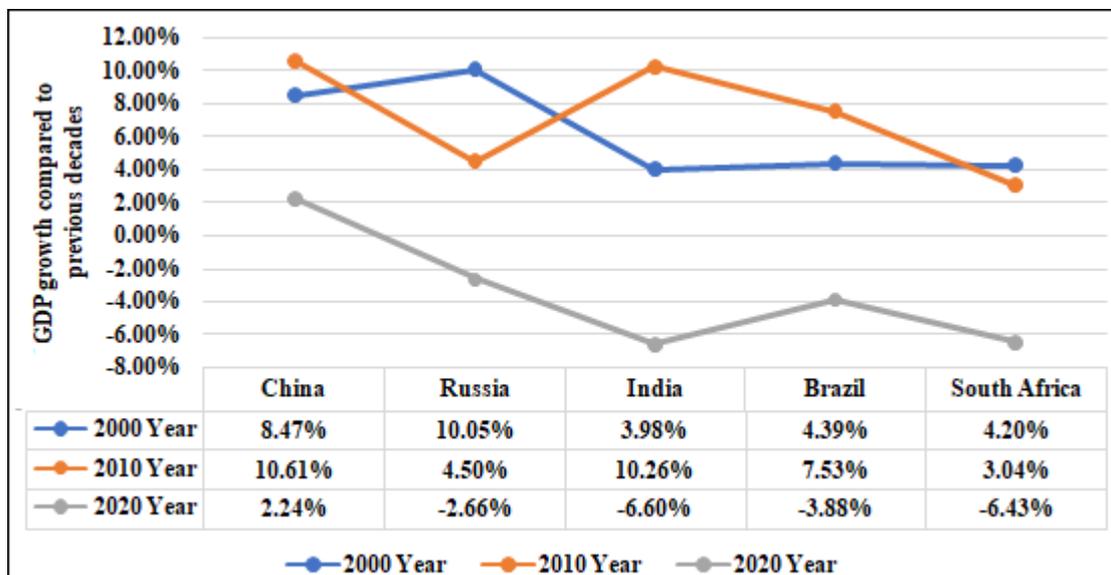


Figure 7: Growth rate of the real GDP in the BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.imf.org, World Economic Outlook, October 2022

Exports of BRICS Countries nations between 2000 and 2020

China has continuously been the top BRICS exporter of products since 2000, and its percentage of exports from the group has grown dramatically. China accounted for just over

50% of BRICS exports in 2000; by 2020, this percentage had increased to 74%. India surpassed Brazil in 2009, while South Africa had a minor export proportion among the other BRICS nations and Russia the second - largest.

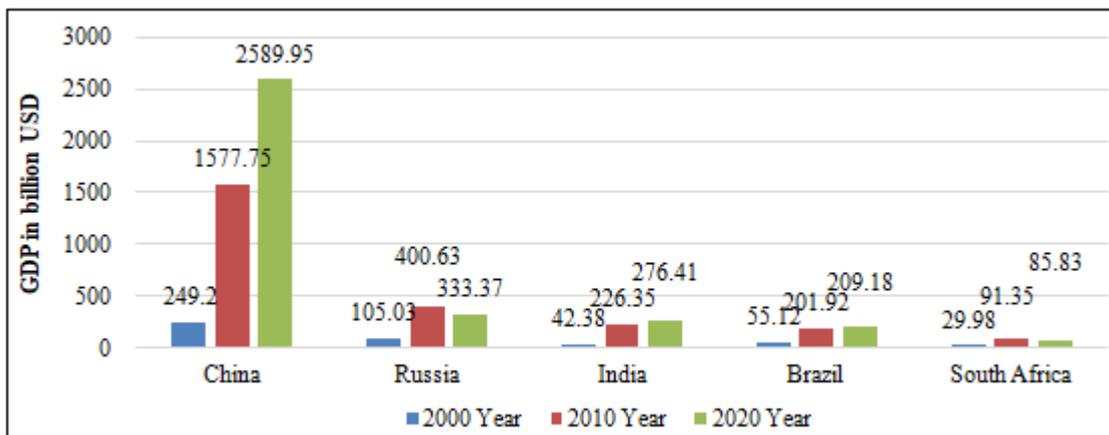


Figure 8: Export of goods among the BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.statista.com, Export by BRICS countries, October 2022

Imports of BRICS Countries nations between 2000 and 2020

With a projected value of more than two trillion dollars in 2020, China will continue to be the BRICS nations' top importer of products since 2000. During the past two decades, China's imports have increased dramatically in value; imports in 2018 were more than nine times more expensive than imports in 2000. Moreover, India's imports

in 2018 were ten times greater than in 2000. However, the peak years for Russia and Brazil were at the beginning of the decade, shortly before both nations entered a recession. The value of imported products into South Africa has also grown, reaching over \$100 billion in most of the 2010s. In 2000, China's imports were worth roughly the same as those of the other four BRICS nations; in 2020, that value had increased significantly.

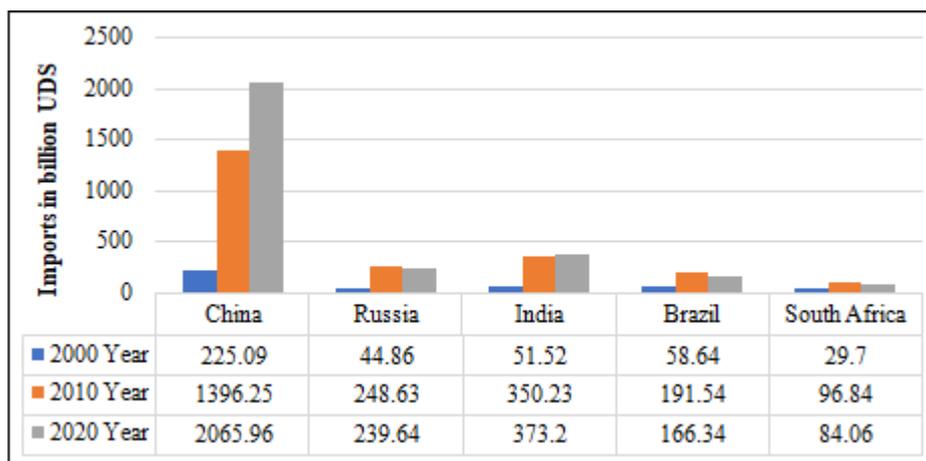


Figure 9: Import of goods into the BRICS countries

Source: Based on data from www.statista.com, Import by BRICS countries, October 2022

The Drug Industry of BRICS Countries

This chart shows how the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries' pharmaceutical markets changed between 2013 and 2015. For example, Brazil's pharmaceutical sector brought in approximately 16 billion dollars in sales in 2014. The pharmaceutical industries of the BRICS nations are catching up to developed markets in many Western nations. However, there is considerably more room for expansion in the BRICS nations than in other areas. Figure.10. can be observed in the pharmaceutical industry's revenue.

The data provides 2008 and 2015 market values for healthcare remote patient monitoring and a projection for 2022. The market for remote patient monitoring in these nations was estimated to be worth around 10.7 million dollars in 2015.

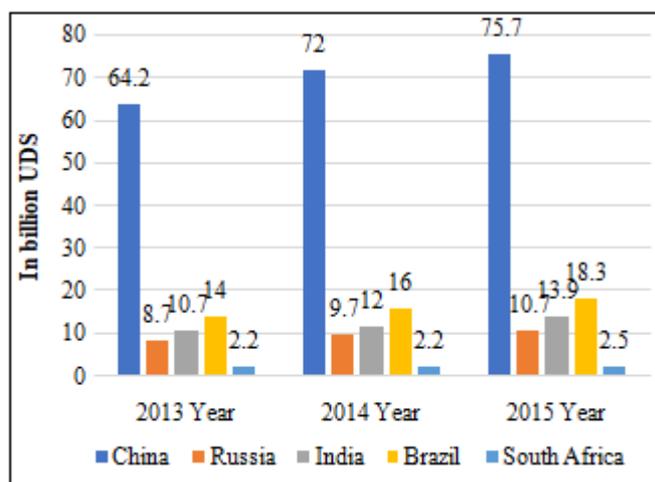


Figure 10: Pharmaceuticals industry revenue in the BRICS countries

Source: Based on pulled data from various sources of BRICS countries.

Expenditure on information technology (IT) services

The data project that BRICS countries are spending on information technology (IT) services from 2014 to 2019.41.5 billion dollars were spent on IT services in the BRIC nations in 2014.

Marketplace for automobiles

Between January and December 2020, Chinese consumers purchased over 25 million automobiles, making China the largest automotive market among the BRIC countries. As a result, sales of motor vehicles in China during that month increased by roughly 6.4% over the same period last year. Brazil, Russia, India, and China make up the BRIC nations. In 2020, sales of motor cars in these nations accounted for over 40% of global sales.

BRIC Consumers Plan to Spend Big on Consumer Electronics

As the United States and Europe improve at using many consumer technologies, emerging markets are becoming increasingly critical to the consumer electronics industry. The research from Accenture is based on a quantitative online survey of more than 11, 000 customers from 11 different countries, including, among others, the United States, Germany, and the BRIC countries. The findings reveal that in 2012, customers from China, Brazil, Russia, and India dramatically outspent those from the United States and other conventional markets in spending on personal electronics. Moreover, buyers in BRIC countries showed highly positive buying intentions for 2013. For example, Chinese people say they will spend an average of \$1, 489 on consumer electronics this year, while Americans say they will spend an average of \$970.

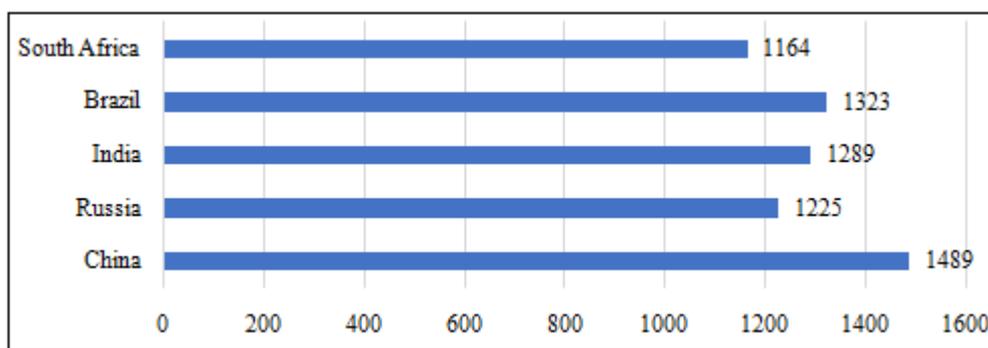
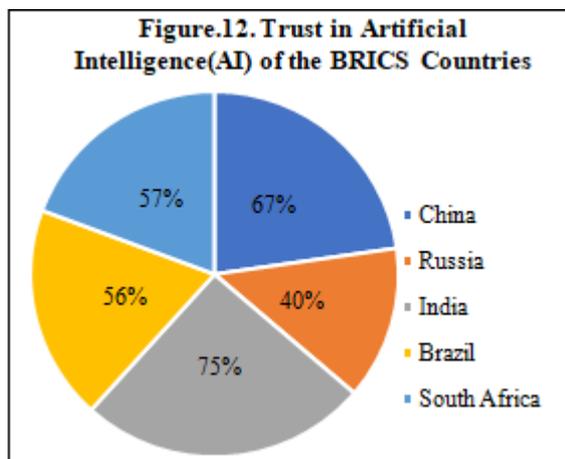


Figure 11: Spending on consumer electronics of BRICS countries in USD

Sources: Based on data from www.yumpu. com, Accenture Consumer Electronic Products and Services Usage Report, 2013

Artificial Intelligence

According to research, people in the largest so - called emerging markets—India, China, South Africa, and Brazil—are much less suspicious of the continuous use of AI systems. For example, in a study conducted between September and October 2022, 75% of Indian respondents said they would have confidence in artificial intelligence, followed by 67% of Chinese, 57% of South Africans, and 40% of Russian respondents.



Sources: Gillespie, N., & others (2023). Trust in Artificial Intelligence and IPSOS Report (2018).

4. Conclusion

The BRICS countries have abundant natural resources, inexpensive labour, a political philosophy of taking one step back and two steps ahead, and favourable foreign direct investment. These factors work in concert to support and drive economic growth. The developing economies will continue to grow in the years to come, but at a slower rate, which will have a long - term impact on the global economy. As developing countries become less dependent on the economies of the West, they must work together to promote diversity and keep things fair in international relations. Strengthening collaboration is necessary to tackle the global financial crisis. It is a safe option for the five nations to prosper together post - crisis because each BRIC country has limited authority.

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